

Sterilization of dogs and cats adopted from an animal shelter
(HB 100 by Richardson/Whitmire)

DIGEST: HB 100 would have required that dogs or cats adopted from an animal shelter be sterilized or that the new owner agree in writing to have the animal sterilized. The animal would have been subject to reclamation by the shelter if the new owner failed to have the animal sterilized.

GOVERNOR'S
REASON
FOR VETO:

Many cities in Texas already have similar neutering requirements. This type of regulation is best left to local authorities. The imposition of state regulation in this area is unnecessary.

RESPONSE:

Rep. Bob Richardson, the author of HB 100, said: "It is unfortunate that this bill was vetoed, as thousands of dogs and cats across the state will continue to be born to roam our back alleys and neighborhoods, hungry, lonely, and afraid until they are picked up and put to their death. Yes, many humane societies in Texas do have mandatory sterilization programs, but many more do not. This bill, which required releasing agencies to sterilize dogs and cats before releasing them for adoption, could have saved over 25,000 animals from destruction in the Austin area alone in 1988. Communities around the nation that have established spay/neuter programs with vigorous education efforts report 30-60 percent reductions in the number of animals euthanized. The program also could very well save money for both the Humane Society and the taxpayer."

NOTES:

HB 100 passed the House on the Consent Calendar and was not analyzed in a Daily Floor Report.